

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03 OMB-01

SCA-01 ITFE-05 FDRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /084 W

----- 046586

P R 141229Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7492

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 13876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LA, VS, TH

SUBJECT: UNHCR PROGRAM FOR THAILAND

REF: A. STATE 158901

 B. BANGKOK 13740

SUMMARY: UNHCR DELEGATION FROM GENEVA CALLED ON THE
AMBASSADOR JULY 11 TO REPORT THAT UNHCR IS PREPARED
TO ASSUME A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN REFUGEE RELIEF
AND RESETTLEMENT WORK IN THAILAND. AS A RESULT OF A
MEETING WITH THE THAI INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON
REFUGEES, UNHCR IS CONVINCED THAT IT HAS THE FULL
COOPERATION OF THE RTG. END SUMMARY.

2. UNHCR OFFICIALS GILBERT JAEGER, DIRECTOR FOR
ASSISTANCE, AND KIM RIZVI, SPECIAL ASSISTANT, CALLED
ON THE AMBASSADOR JULY 11. THEY WERE ACCCOMPANIED BY
MR. KADRY, DIRECTOR OF THE BANGKOK UNHCR OFFICE. THE
MESSAGE THAT JAEGER AND RIZVI CARRIED WAS THAT
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UNHCR HAD REEVALUATED THE REFUGEE SITUATION IN THAILAND AND IS NOW PREPARED TO PLAY A MUCH MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO JAEGER, THE PROGRAM BEING CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS OR SO WILL CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING

ASSISTANCE PENDING RESETTLEMENT TO ALL THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN THAILAND. JAEGER AND RIZPI SAID THEY DISCUSSED THEIR TENTATIVE PLANS WITH THE RTG INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES ON THE MORNING OF JULY 11 AND THAT THE THAI REACTION WAS VERY FAVORABLE.

JAEGER ASSURED US AND ASKED THAT WE INFORM WASHINGTON THAT UNHCR WOULD HAVE THE FULL COOPERATION OF THE RTG IN IMPLEMENTING ITS PROGRAM.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED FOR DETAILS ON HOW THE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE PROVIDED. RIZVI AND JAEGER RESPONDED LMAT IT WOULD BE GRANTED DIRECTLY TO THE RTG AND THE RTG WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION THAT UNHCR CONSIDER WORKING THROUGH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THAILAND, RIZVI SAID THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THE RTG WORKED WELL WITH THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE SUPERVISION AND FOLLOW-UP, AND JAEGER AND RIZVI SAID THE UNHCR STAFF WOULD BE INCREASED ACO PROVISION FOR FIELD SUPERVISION WOULD BE MADE.

3. COMMENT: JAEGER AND RIZVI SEEMED WELL AWARE OF THE WEAKNESS OF THE PRESENT UNHCR OFFICE IN BANGKOK. WE EXPRESSED OUR HOPE THAT UNHCR WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY STRONG, DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP FOR REFUGEE RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT AND BELIEVE THAT THE POINT REGISTERED. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE NEW ATTITUDE OF UNHCR AS REPRESENTED BY JAEGER AND RIZVI. IN FURTHER CONTACTS WITH THEM, HOWEVER, WE WANT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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AGAIN STRESS THE NEED FOR ACTIVE UNHCR (OR VOLAG) INVOLGMENT IN THE SUPERVISION OF THE PROGRAM.
WHITEHOUSE

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